

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A thermal fixing device comprising:
 - a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;
 - a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;
 - a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and
 - ~~a conveyance member configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing member contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing member with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and~~
 - a guide member disposed to face the conveyance member and configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;
 - wherein the conveyance unit comprises,
 - a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and
 - a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and
 - wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and
 - a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium.

5. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a part of ~~the conveyance member~~ the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

6. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

7. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

8. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from ~~the conveyance member~~ the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

9. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a dynamic friction coefficient of the ~~conveyance member~~ first conveyance roller at a contact portion where the ~~conveyance member~~ first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is larger than a dynamic friction coefficient of the guide member at a contact portion where the guide member contacts the fixation medium.

10. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a contact portion of the ~~conveyance member~~ first conveyance roller where the ~~conveyance member~~ first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the

fixation medium is made of metal material.

11. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein a part of the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

12. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

13. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

14. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

15. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

16. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

17. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a sheet feeding section configured to feed a sheet; and
an image forming section configured to form an image on the sheet fed by the sheet feeding section,

wherein the image forming section includes a thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with the sheet;
a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the sheet against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the sheet that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

~~a conveyance member configured to convey the sheet, and configured to be in contact with the sheet on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing member contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing member with respect to a conveyance direction of the sheet and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the sheet; and~~

a guide member disposed to face the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller and configured to guide the sheet to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises:

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance

direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and
a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that
passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second
conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet.

21. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein a part of the ~~conveyance member~~ first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

22. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

23. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

24. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the ~~conveyance member~~ first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

25. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein a dynamic friction coefficient of the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller at a contact portion where the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is larger than a dynamic friction coefficient of the guide member at a contact portion where the guide member contacts the sheet.

26. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein a contact portion of the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller where the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is made of elastic material, and a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the sheet is made of metal material.

27. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein a part of the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

28. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

29. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

30. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line

that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

31. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

32. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the ~~conveyance member~~first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

33. (New) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member disposed configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises;

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing member contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing member with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to

support and convey the fixation medium; and

the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing member from a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing member and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing member

34. (New) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises:

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing member contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing member with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing member from a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing member and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing member.